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JOHN CULBERTSON  
RANSOM THACKER  
JOHN CUMMINGS  
AND 4  
RELATED FAMILIES

by

A. B. CULBERTSON  
P.O. BOX 167  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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Culbertson, Ambrose  
John Culbertson Ransom  
Thacker John Cummings

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FOREWORD

This memorandum deals with John Culbertson, born in Pennsylvania and lived in the Spanish Province of New Madrid and the Natchez District of Mississippi Territory. He married Sarah Cummings, daughter of John and Eleanor Cummings who lived in South Carolina and New Madrid, and who had Steward, Wilson T., John, Robert, and Nancy who married Joel B. Moss in Amite County, Mississippi.

The Ransom Thacker family appears because Wilson T. Cummings married Nancy Thacker, mother of Elizabeth Cummings Culbertson who married my great-grandfather, Samuel Culbertson in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Other Thacker names that will appear are William, Richard B., George, Hiram, Ransom Jr., Wm W., Elijah.

Other Culbertsons are John, Samuel, Green, Ellick, Steward, Ransom, Howard, Robert, Winfield, Eloisa, Elizabeth, William, Wesley, William Floyd, and James Winfield.

Related families are Benton, Jones, Treadwell, Mathews, Branch, Morris, Leggett, Wheelles.

This memorandum was transcribed directly from the dictaphone belt to the stencil so that many errors crept into the transcription without opportunity for correction.

Its purpose is to give preliminary information to other researchers in the hope that they will pass on to me any additional information about these and related families. I have much detailed records that cannot be discussed in these pages. Anyone who has any facts worth recording or who wishes further data will please feel free to write to me.

A. B. Culbertson  
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Fort Worth, Texas





## JOHN CULBERTSON

John Culbertson was born in Pennsylvania, the exact day and year not being known, but some time before the American Revolution. The Danish foreign office reported that he was issued a naturalization Certificate No. 40 on June 18, 1802, on the Isle of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. The Folio 77 of the Passport-Register for the years 1794 to 1805 in Christianstad reported that he arrived on June 8, 1802 and took the oath of a new citizen and was a plantation manager born in Pennsylvania in America.

"It should be observed that it would appear from the facts of the case, that previous to the said date, no certificate of citizenship has been issued for him by the Danish authorities of these islands. According to Folio 82 of the St. Croix Assessment Role for 1802, dated Christianstad, April 1803, John Culbertson was then residing in Northside Quarter, Liter B No. 11 with Peter Appleby, as Manager, having no family, only with six slaves, three of which being half-grown-up taxable negresses, and three - also negresses - being exempt from taxation. In the assessment roles for the following years, as well as for St. Croix as for St. Thomas, his name is not to be found anymore; nor has he been mentioned in the Executor's annual reports to the Surrogate's court; so he must be supposed to immigrated."

This document was in the possession of Samuel Green Culbertson in Henderson County, Texas, my grandfather.

As a matter of fact he immigrated almost immediately for on August 10, 1802, he acquired a grant of land from the Spanish Government in the New Madrid District, Book 2, Page 45, Records of New Madrid. This was a part of the Louisiana Purchase acquired in 1803, but at that time was a Spanish province. He obtained another grant on November 29, 1804 and still another on December 30, 1805. He signed the deed and acknowledged the deed to these properties February 10, 1807, but to one of them he gave a deed January 14, 1807.

He signed a Petition of Memorial to the Congress from the citizens of the territory as shown in Territorial Papers, Vol. 13, Page 329 on December 27, 1805. John Cummings, Robert Cummings and Stewart Cummings also signed.

A grant of land in Amite County, Mississippi, on August 2, 1809, was a northwest quarter of Section 39, Township 1, North, Range 2 East of 315 acres for which he paid \$329.00. I do not believe that the patent was ever issued to him because apparently the grant was obtained from the Spanish Colony. A dispute had existed as to the boundary between West Florida, a Spanish province and a Natchez Territory that had previously been acquired by the United States as territory. In that same county Wilson T. Cummings was granted a license to marry Eliza Thacker on January 11, 1814, Vol. 1, Page 171,





License Records. Wilson T. Cumming's sister, Nancy, also married Joel B. Moss in Amite County in 1813. The Thacker family inter-married in that area, too. It was just across the County line from East Feliciana Parish in Louisiana, where Ransom Thacker and Wilson T. Cummings had obtained grants from the Spanish Government. Evidently, John never lived in Amite County, or, if he did, it was only for a short time for he bought land from Everett Lee, et ux, on October 9, 1810 as shown in Book C, Page 264, Deed Records of Claibourne County, Mississippi, the land being on the waters of Bayou Pierre near Clark's crossing. This was just over the line in Jefferson County from Claiborne County, but at one time both counties were one and under a different name. John sold his land on September 6, 1813 to Burtner, see Book F, Page 184, and moved over into Claiborne County, about five miles southwest of Port Gibson, the county seat. The census for Jefferson County, Mississippi for the year 1810 are in the Archives in Jackson, Mississippi, and show that John Culbertson resided there in 1810 with a wife and four daughters. Since he acquired his land in October of that year, the census may have been subsequent to that time or he may have resided elsewhere in the county.

It was at this point that John died in the year 1816. His wife, Sarah married Joseph Mathews in Claiborne, Mississippi, on the 18th day of October, 1817. She, Sarah Mathews, qualified as guardian of the estate of her minor children and gave consent to the marriage of some of them at Port Gibson in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

His children, in the probable order of their ages, all as shown either in the probate records or the marriage records of Claiborne County, Mississippi, are as follows:

Esther (also called Betty) born about 1803, married John T. Liggett in Claiborne County, May 3, 1821 and later married Edward Johnson in that county.

Keziah, born January 1, 1807, in Claiborne County, died in Rusk Co., Texas, February 10, 1847; married Milton Henry Jones, a Methodist minister, in Claiborne County, Mississippi, on March 3, 1826.

Patsy, born in Claiborne County, Mississippi; have no record of her family;

Minerva, born in Claiborne Co., Mississippi, married John W. Benton and is buried in Grand Gulf Cemetery, near Port Gibson; evidently died at an early age;

Martha, born in Claiborne Co., Mississippi;

Samuel, born in Claiborne Co., on March 6, 1811, died in Shelby Co., Texas, on April 23, 1852. He married his first cousin, Elizabeth Cummings, daughter of Wilson P. Cummings and Nancy Thacker Cummings;





John, born in Claiborne Co., Mississippi, probably around 1813. I do not know anything about his family. I think it is significant that in Dunbar Roland's "Mississippi, the Heart of the South", on Page 799, the following appears in a history of Noxubee Co., Mississippi:

"Is one of the 16 counties formed from the Choctaw Section of 1830. Among the earliest immigrants to the region was John Culbertson. Macon was the County seat."

This was part of the property acquired from the indians under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit. After this treaty the Cummings and Culbertsons and their kith and kin moved up into that area. Some were in Hines Co., some in Yazoo, and some in Yalobusha. I think this John in Noxubee County was our John, son of his father, John at Claiborne Co.

The census of that county for 1840 shows John Culbertson over 20 and under 30 and his wife over 20 and under 30, with two females under 5 and one over 15 and under 20, which may have been a relative of his or his wife. If he was born about 1815 as I suspect, he would have been around 27 in 1840. I think he later was in Yalobusha Co. because I was furnished some old papers by George S. Culbertson of Shreveport, La., issued to an by our ancestor, Samuel Culbertson, son of John, who married Elizabeth Cummings. One receipt was issued to S. G. and J. W. Culbertson in that county, in the year 1837. My grandfather was named Samuel Green and used those initials but he was born in 1836. He had a brother whose name was John Wilson, but he was only five or six years older than my grandfather, so he would not have been the J. W. mentioned in the receipt. I think, no doubt, that S. G. was the son of John, Sr., and that J. W. was the John, his brother, who was an early resident of Noxubee County. See the following probate records of Claiborne County, Mississippi, Vol. C-3 Page 180.

The next and youngest child of John and Sarah Culbertson was Sarah Ann, born in Claiborne County in May 1815, died Jan. 16, 1881 in Wilson County, Texas. Some descendants have questioned this, saying she died in 1888 at the age of 73 years, while others claim it was in 1887. She married December 18, 1830 to Shelley Booth Treadwell (some of the records show him as Shelley Green Treadwell). He was the son of John Treadwell and Mary Booth Treadwell, born December 16, 1810 on their plantation near Vicksburg, Mississippi. She married a second time to John Scism. The date is not given. They moved to Texas in 1850. They lived variously in Goliad, Gonzales, in Hays County, Texas, and perhaps for a time in Wilson County, although I am not certain.

We do not know much about the John Culbertson family prior to his being on the Isle of St. Croix and the recitation in his citizenship papers that he was born in Pennsylvania in the United States. In a book compiled by Mrs. Walker S. Welch, called "Mississippi Revenue Soldiers", it gives the Revolutionary War service record of John Culbertson as born in Cumberland County, Pa., and died at Port Gibson, Mississippi, 1816, married around 1800, Sarah Cummings daughter of Wilson T. Cummings and Nancy Thacker Cummings;





Service: He served under Colonel Samuel Cummings. It was error to say Sarah was daughter of Wilson T. Cummings, because she was his sister. This is the only information I have that John Culbertson served in the Revolutionary War, but the Sons of the American Revolution made this search and gave me membership based upon this record. I had always suspected that he left Pennsylvania while quite young and if he served in the Revolution at all, it was probably in some of the southern states, although I have no information to this effect.

I have been impressed by the fact that he obtained a Spanish grant in New Madrid and then again in Amite County, Mississippi, and then moved to the recent Spanish area at Natchez or in the Natchez District of Jefferson County.

Natchez court records, Page 118, contain an affidavit by Letitia Culbertson on August 24, 1795, as Tutress of her daughter, Nancy Lynn, in which she asks leave to sell a negro boy. In this affidavit she stated that about 1791 she was a native of Maryland and a Protestant; that in 1785 there was a boat at the falls of the Ohio (that was Louisville, Kentucky) under the command of William Davenport in which a number of men were embarked who were said to be coming to this district to take possession of Natchez and she was intending to come to settle in this country and obtained from said Davenport passage on said boat on which Nathan Little had also embarked with the intention of leaving said boat at the mouth of the Ohio and going from thence to Illinois, which he attempted to do but was detained on board by force. Two of the men who attempted to leave by swimming to shore were fired upon by the others. She was 27 years old. William Davenport had obtained an agreement from the State of Georgia to come down and take possession of the Natchez District which was claimed by the State of Georgia as part of the state boundaries.

On December 21, 1785, Issac Johnson became surety for Samuel Culbertson, who, according to the aforesaid court record, came there with William Davenport and could not depart with him. Both signed a bond. So Samuel and Letitia Culbertson arrived on the same boat and therefore must have been husband and wife. Samuel obtained a Spanish grant (see Book B, Page 2, Spanish Grant Records at Natchez, Miss.)

I do not have any record of connection between this Samuel Culbertson and John and his family, but the fact that they were both obtaining grants in Spanish territories is suggestive that there may have been some connection back in Kentucky and further back than that. The old Kentucky land grants 1779 - 87 shows a grant in Fayette County to Samuel Culbertson Book 1, Page 358 on January 4, 1783. In Jefferson County it shows a grant to Samuel Culbertson filed on many tracts in 1783 to 1784, but only a few were ever surveyed.

John Culbertson is shown to have a grant in Book 1, Page 208 on January 5, 1782. That was in Lincoln County.

In 1798, December 22, the Governor appointed John Culbertson Sheriff of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. A report (Vol. 25, P. 55) for Jefferson County, Kentucky of justices who served prior to the separation from Virginia, shows Samuel Culbertson, removed. He is probably the one who left from the falls of the Ohio in 1785. The record of the Samuel Culbertson Spanish grant is in Vol. 2 of the Records office, Court House, Natchez, Mississippi. Squire Boone,





brother of Daniel Boone, was his surety and this is again suggestive, since he, too, came out of Kentucky and I believe was a resident of East Feliciana Parish where Wilson Cummings and Ransom Thacker lived and across the line from where John Culbertson got his Spanish grant in Amite County.

Samuel's tract was "on northeast fork of Second Creek about 8 miles southeast of Natchez".

This controversy between the Spanish origin of grants in West Florida and in Natchez District caused considerable controversy and confusion. Robert Culbertson signed a petition on March 17, 1812, to Congress concerning titles which the petitioners said they had to land in West Florida where they said they resided when France overcame Spain and then relinquished the land to the United States -- in the County of Feliciana and the territory of Orleans. (or Orleans Territorial Papers, Vol. 9, Page 1010)

John had the same trouble in Amite County and probably never got his title confirmed. Again, this was just across the County line from Feliciana Parish. What was the relation, if any, between John Culbertson, Samuel Culbertson of Natchez, and Robert Culbertson of Feliciana Parish? And if they were related, did they all come from Kentucky and whence to Kentucky?

In Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, Page 436, he states:

"Now the original site (of Little Prairie, New Madrid District) perhaps a mile from the bank on the Kentucky side, the New Madrid of today has nothing about it that would suggest its origin. Page 53 of that volume states:

"It was settled immediately after the close of the Revolutionary War by families from Virginia and the Carolinas."

I think it was error to state that Little Prairie was on the Kentucky side because all of the records indicate that it was a little west of what is now Carruthersville, Missouri, and if so, this would be several miles south from the Tennessee - Kentucky boundary. While it is not appropo of anything in particular, and I have no facts to show any family connection, the Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, Page 307, gives a story about the earthquake, which we will discuss at another place. After the first quake, he said,

"Ten miles below Little Prairie on Pemiscot (the river) an old man named Culbertson with his family lived on a short bend in the river. On the morning of December 16 (1811), Mrs. Culbertson started to the well and the smokehouse, for breakfast meat, when to her great astonishment no well or smokehouse was to be seen. They were found on the opposite side of the river and they had to go in a boat to reach them."





Our John had moved from that same section just two or three years prior to that time, certainly not over a half dozen years and it is entirely probable that both were part of the same family.

I have considered that John may have come from South Carolina as the Cummings family and the Thackers are known to have come from that state and are listed in the census of 1790 in South Carolina. Where did his family originate in Pennsylvania?

In the book "Migrations of South Carolinians to Natchez Trace" by Pruitt for Hines County, Mississippi, in 1850 are shown Samuel Culbertson and Elizabeth Culbertson who were my great grandparents. They left Mississippi for Texas that year. Neither of them came from South Carolina. However, her father, Wilson T. Cummings was born in South Carolina and this raises the inference that Samuel's father may have lived at least in South Carolina.

The Culbertsons by Dr. L. R. Culbertson, Part 4, Page 42 deals with Irish Andrew Culbertson of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He had four sons. His oldest was Samuel, who had five sons. One of these sons was also named Samuel (Page 56). He moved to Spartansburg, South Carolina and in the census of 1790 had a wife and three sons under sixteen. Dr. Culbertson does not know what became of Samuel Jr. or Sr. Samuel Jr. had a wife named Celia. He cites another deed by a Samuel whose wife was Jane and assumes that the wife, Celia, had died, but I believe he was in error and that Samuel and Celia were probably the parents of Green who was born in 1801 in Georgia which was five years after they deeded their land in 1790. This Samuel also had two sons, David and John, who obtained land grants in Spartansburg County, in 1798, probably when they became of age. They were the right age to conform to the census of 1790. Nothing is known of their descendants. Their father sold out in 1811. Our ancestor, John, was in New Madrid in 1802. Family tradition had him age 37 in 1811 when my great-grandfather was born. If so, he was born in 1774 and was 24 years old when the John in South Carolina obtained the land grant in 1798. It could have been our John.

There is another interesting fact connected with these families. My grandfather was named Samuel Green Culbertson and went by his middle name. His father was also Samuel Green.





Reverend Milton Henry Jones departed this life at Acton, Hood County, Texas, January 22, 1875.

Kezie Jones departed this life February 10, 1847 in Rusk County Texas.

(3) Dates born in 1822

In Troop County, Georgia, in 1827, Celia Culbertson, widow of the Revolutionary soldier obtained a land grant. She sold it and her deed was witnessed by Green Culbertson and Green Reeves. This Green Culbertson was the ancestor of the Culbertson family at Linden, Louisiana and Ben and Sam Culbertson who live in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, and Jack Culbertson, who lives in Harris County, Texas. He is reported to have died in Texas. On Page 442 of Culbertson Genealogy, William Culbertson is shown to have lived in St. Clair County, Missouri. He had a son, Green B. H. Culbertson. Is it a mere coincidence that the first name, Green, should thus recur in the family?

The descends of John Culbertson and Sara Cummins Culbertson:

- (1) Esther (Betty) married in 1821 to Liggett in Port Gibson, Miss.
- (2) Kezia, born November 1, 1807, married to Reverend Milton H. Jones, a Methodist minister. The children of Kezia and Reverend Jones were as follows:

William Lorenzo born January 17, 1827 in Claiborne County, Miss.,  
Candace Benton Jones, born June 26, 1828 in Claiborne County,  
Sarah Jones, born August 1, 1829 in Claiborne County; Samuel  
Jones, born November 6, 1830 in Warren County, Mississippi  
John Wesley Jones, born January 31, 1832 in Warren County,  
Mississippi.

Matilda Jones born April 1, 1834 in Yazoo County, Miss.

Milton Jones, Jr., born March 8, 1836 in Hinds County near  
Jackson, Mississippi;

Martha Elizabeth Jones born November 3, 1837, in Carroll County,  
Mississippi;

Benjamin Franklin Jones born March 3, 1839, in Yalobusha  
County, Mississippi;

Wiley Jones, Jr., born May 31, 1840, in Shelby County, Republic  
of Texas, died July 26, 1840;

Francis Wilson Jones born October 12, 1841, in Shelby County,  
Republic of Texas;

Wiley Palmer Jones born September 12, 1844, in Houston County,  
Republic of Texas;

John Culbertson Jones born February 4, 1847, his mother having  
died February 10, six days after his birth.

- 4 -

Noxubee County, Mississippi, was John Culbertson, which the census of 1840 indicates was the right age to be this son of John and Sarah.

- 5 -





Reverend Milton Henry Jones departed this life at Acton, Hood County, Texas, January 22, 1875.

Kezie Jones departed this life February 10, 1847 in Rusk County Texas.

- (3) Patsy, born in 1823.
- (4) Minerva, born in 1826; married in 18 to John W. Benton, buried in Grand Gulf Cemetery, near Port Gibson, Miss.
- (5) Martha married in 1827 to Greensbury Wheess in Claiborne County, Miss.
- (6) Sarah Anne, born May 17, 1815, married December 15, 1830 to Shelley Booth Treadwell. To this marriage were born the following:

James John, October 13, 1831, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Benjamin Franklin, Jan. 2, 1835 at the same place.

Martha Anne, May 3, 1836, at the same place.

Oliver Goldsmith, December 12, 1837, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Wesley, August 24, 1839, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Shelley Green, born August 6, 1841, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Edward born June 17, 1843, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Walter Scott, born July 17, 1846, near Vicksburg, Miss.

Sarah Anne married the second time to John Scism and had Elizabeth, Lorissia and Jody.

The Treadwells lived many years in Gonzalez County and Goliad County, Texas.

- (7) Samuel Culbertson, born March 6, 1811, in Claiborne County, Mississippi, married March 11, 1829 to Elizabeth Cummings, daughter of Wilson T. and Nancy Thacker Cummins. The following children were born to this marriage:

John Wilson Culbertson born December 6, 1830, died 1864, killed in the battle of Mansfield, La.

Sarah born July 26, 1832,

Eloisa, born August 7, 1834;

Joseph Herred, born August 29, 1835;

Samuel Green, born September 8, 1836;

Ransom Howard, born October 31, 1838;

William Wesley, born January 10, 1841;

Allick Steward, born December 8, 1842;

Nancy, born November 22, 1844;

Johnathan Lee, born July 10, 1845;

Robert Winfield, born September 13, 1848;

Elizabeth, born September 7, 1851.

- (8) John Culbertson, born around 1813. Dunbar Roland's "Mississippi, the Heart of the South" records that an early resident of Noxubee County, Mississippi, was John Culbertson, which the census of 1840 indicates was the right age to be this son of John and Sarah.

Section is from the same source as the one in the  
first volume of the series. The only difference is  
that the first volume is in the first series.

(1) Page 100, line 10

(2) Page 100, line 10

(3) Page 100, line 10

(4) Page 100, line 10

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(10) Page 100, line 10

(11) Page 100, line 10



John Culbertson died in 1816 and his widow, Sarah, later married Joseph Mathews. They had at least two children, one named Joseph and a daughter, Nancy, who married James W. Branch in Rusk County, Texas, and lived for many years and reared his family at Old Bagdad in Williamson County, Texas.

Mrs. Clem Wilson, Route 3, Box 123, Hot Springs, Arkansas, is a descendant and has the family record.

The Treadwell family record may be obtained from Mrs. Zillah Ford, 2268 South Delaware Court, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

She also has the family record of the Milton H. Jones family as does Mrs. George L. Brown, 2001 North Sam Houston, Odessa, Texas.

Samuel Green Culbertson was born September 8, 1836. He married Martha Ellendar Dunahoe, who was born April 18, 1844. He died December 14, 1916 and she died July 20, 1886. There were born to this marriage the following:

William Floyd, born September 6, 1866, died November 6, 1905. He was married to Frances Eudora Powell on October 24, 1889. She died October 11, 1895. The following children were born to them.

Bertha May, born September 5, 1890

William Homer, born May 22, 1892

Ambrose Brazier (the author) April 16, 1894. His children are Mrs. Dee S. Finley and Mrs. William Roger Sarsgard.

Samuel Green had other children who died in early life and are not mentioned. James Winfield was born March 4, 1872. He was married to Mary Virginia Redding December 28, 1902 and had the following children:

Mary Esther Culbertson born December 18, 1903

Blanche, born May 22, 1907

Lillian Hazel born December 2, 1909

Ruby Gordon born November 29, 1911

Herman Homar born August 1, 1914.

The next child of Samuel Green was Laura Betta, born July 2, 1874. She was married to John James Pierce December 12, 1905. There was born to them the following:

Ernest Russell Pierce, born April 10, 1907, now deceased.

Martha Virginia Pierce November 16, 1908, who is now

Mrs. Leroy Heist of Washington, D. C.

Lilla Effie Pierce, November 11, 1910, who is now

Mrs. Houston, living in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

Lillie Opal Pierce, October 20, 1912, who was married to Mr. Lovlett and lives in Irving, Texas.

Ambrose Alton, born August 7, 1914, and lives in Denton County, Texas.





Bertha Pierce who is married to Donald Green and  
lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lulu Francis born March 6, 1878. She was married to John Thomas  
Carver on May 8, 1910 and had the following children:

Odle born March 23, 1911

Esco born January 20, 1913, and died in 1916

J.T. and AB who was born June 7, 1921 and died two years  
later.

The next was Vernetia Ann Elizabeth Culbertson born June 4,  
1876, died February 4, 1901. She was married to James R. Sanders  
at Athens, Texas, and had one daughter, Bessie Sanders, who first  
married Kirby Power and had two children by that marriage and is now  
Mrs. Chessley B. Chandler of Canyon, Texas.

This memorandum is being prepared by A. B. Culbertson,  
P. O. Box 167, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, where he has lived  
for many years. His family lived for many years previously in  
Henderson County, Texas, where he was born.

#### OTHER CHILDREN OF SAMUEL & ELIZABETH CULBERTSON

##### John Wilson Culbertson and descendants

The oldest child of Samuel Culbertson and his wife Elizabeth  
Cummings was John Wilson Culbertson, evidently named for his Grand-  
father John Culbertson and his Grandfather Wilson Cummings. He was  
born December 16, 1830 and died as a result of injuries in the battle  
of Mansfield, La., on April 17, 1864. D. E.

Culbertson was born December 25, 1832, whose maiden name was Bond,  
and died March 30, 1907. She and John Wilson Culbertson had a son  
John Wilson Culbertson born June 14, 1862, who died without marrying  
September 20, 1912. Their oldest daughter was Harriett who married  
H. C. Pruett at Joaquin, Shelby County, Texas; they both died  
without children. The youngest daughter was Annie who married J. M.  
Childress at Joaquin. They had six girls and three boys whose names  
were Jimmy, Emmett and Willie.

One son was S. J. Culbertson, who married Janora E. O'Neil on  
October 7, 1885. He was born July 3, 1857 and she on October 7, 1869.  
They had children as follows:

C. C. Culbertson, born September 12, 1886

E. I. Culbertson (a girl) born October 16, 1888

N. J. Culbertson (a girl) born August 8, 1903.

the boys were:

T. J. Culbertson, born July 25, 1890

L. J. Culbertson, born September 18, 1892

D. A. Culbertson, born August 26, 1900.

The correct names of the girls were:

Claudie C.

Errie I.

Nora J.





The other son of John Wilson Culbertson was J. M. (Jack) Culbertson who married Mollie Smith and had three boys and two girls. The boys were Bob, Willie and Homer. They all lived for many years in the vicinity of Joaquin, Texas, and Loganport, La.

#### SARAH CULBERTSON AND HER DESCENDANTS

##### Sarah Culbertson and her descendants

The second child of Samuel and Elizabeth Culbertson was Sarah who was born July 26, 1832. She was married to Emuel Benton who was born November 23, 1829 and died February 5, 1902. They had the following children:

Elizabeth born July 27, 1852

Rufus Alexander Benton born September 11, 1855; he was married twice and had no children by his first marriage except one that died in infancy, but has one child by his last wife who lived somewhere around Tyler, Texas

The second child of Emuel Benton and wife, Sarah, was John Wesley Benton who was born June 3, 1858. He was married to Martha Jane Cantrell December 16, 1888. One of their daughters, Alice Benton, married W. H. Blanchert. Another daughter, Jule May Benton, married William Alfred Cates on June 8, 1916. A son, Lonny E. Benton, married Era L. Walling on March 10, 1926. The youngest, Velma, married Joe N. Snook in 1934. J. Wesley Benton died in 1928 and his wife in 1919. Their other offspring lived for the most part in and around Athens, Henderson County, Texas.

The third child of Emuel and Sarah Benton was Martha Lavonia who married George Thompson Lawrence on March 8, 1885. They had three children: Sally V. Lawrence born February 14, 1886, who married Sidney Andrews Corley; Nora Lavonia Lawrence born October 21, 1891 and one child who died in infancy.

The other child of Emuel and Sarah was Samuel Green Benton who was born April 17, 1860 and married Abbie Ella Cox. Their children were Leila, born March 28, 1888 who married Thomas Clinton Tanner; Ransom Homer (evidently a carry-over from the name of Ransom Thacker) born February 2, 1892 and married Dovey Calhoun in 1911 and he died in Tarrant County, Texas. Their third child was Lloyd D. Benton born November 7, 1900.

##### Ellick Steward Culbertson (son of Samuel and Elizabeth)

While there are other children that were older than Ellick Steward, they never married or as in the case of Eloisa, she married C. L. Cleveland January 6, 1881 but lived with him only a short time and never remarried; Ransom Howard and William Wesley who never married. Ellick Steward was the next in order and point of years. He was born December 8, 1842. He married Sarah Ann Burks in Alice County, Texas, on September 12, 1867. He had the following





children whose marriages and descendants are not known to me:

Roland W. Culbertson born August 18, 1868;  
Anna Elizabeth born November 7, 1870 in Alice County;  
Louisa Sarena born May 10, 1872 in Alice County;  
Rhoda Viola born November 3, 1873 in Hood County;  
Nora Eveline born September 27, 1875 in Alice County;  
Charles Elias born September 22, 1877 in Alice County;  
George Wilson born January 27, 1879 in Alice County;  
Minnie Culpernia born March 4, 1881 in Alice County;  
Sarah Vida born December 18, 1882 in Alice County;  
Mary Effie born October 12, 1884; in Alice County, Texas  
Myrtle Lavonia born September 19, 1886;  
John Oran born January 4, 1889;  
Samuel Haskell born in August 1891 in Haskell County;  
Era May born October 11, 1894 in Dallas County.

I do have the following information about their marriages:

John Oran Culbertson married Effie May Webb on Dec. 27, 1908  
and their children were Edna May, Thelma Iola, Elsie  
Lucille and Edwin Oran.

I also know that Roland Winfield married Melissa V. Hogan  
on December 24, 1890, and had the following children:  
Gerti Eloisa ; Victoria Viola, Ray Roland, Myrtle Marie,  
and Roy Lee.

#### Robert Winfield Culbertson and descendants

The eleventh child of Samuel and Elizabeth Culbertson was  
Robert Winfield who was born September 13, 1848. He married  
Georgia Ann Mosley on March 14, 1878 and had the following children:  
Albert Lee, born December 23, 1878; and died young;  
Nettie Pearl born June 5, 1881, who married I. B. Frazier  
November 7, 1899 and had the following children :  
Jessie Lee, Ethelphelia, Maybelle, Ella Avis and  
Annie Gladys.  
Arthur Earl born February 17, 1884;  
Louella born September 4, 1886;  
George Samuel, born January 30, 1889;  
Jodie Ophelia born May 6, 1892.

#### Elizabeth Culbertson (youngest child of Samuel and Elizabeth)

Elizabeth Culbertson was born September 7, 1851 and married James  
Polk Morris in June, 1869. They had the following children:

Georgie Leora Morris, born November 5, 1871;  
Annie Elizabeth Morris born June 19, 1873  
Ella Polk Morris born Jan. 7, 1875;  
Mary Exer Morris born Jan. 21, 1876;  
Ida Jane Morris born  
(Ella and Annie both died young)





THE NATCHEZ DISTRICT  
AT THE TURN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

John Culbertson acquired land in Jefferson County, in the Natchez District, in October of 1810. The census of that district for 1810 shows that he had a wife and four daughters. I believe he had lived there previously and perhaps went from there to the Isle of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, where he took out citizenship papers in the Kingdom of Denmark in 1802. By August of 1803 he was back in the Spanish province of New Madrid, where he acquired Spanish grant or proved up claims under Spanish grants since the territory had been acquired by the United States from France in the Louisiana Purchase.

The Natchez District was about ten miles wide at the mouth of the Yazoo River, and about forty miles wide on the line of N 31° of North Latitude. There is no reliable record of its purchase by French, British or Spanish from any indian tribes; no data upon which to base the title of the United States, as there is in other acquisitions of indian territory.

The Natchez District was claimed by the English, French, Spanish, and by the State of Georgia. The original English province of Carolina comprehended the present state of Georgia, the Floridas and Louisiana, and the entire province had long been claimed by an Englishman under a grant from the Crown. The province of Carolina was divided into South and North Carolina, and in 1732 the King established within the boundary of South Carolina the colony of Georgia, bounding it from the northern branch of a river called the Savannah all along the seacoast to the southward and to the most northern branch of a certain other river called the Altamaha, and westward from the heads of the said rivers respectively, in direct lines to the south seas. In 1763 Great Britain concluded a Treaty of Peace with Spain under which she acquired all of the Spanish possessions each or southeast of the Mississippi. In the same year, the king of Great Britain established by proclamation the provinces of East and West Florida. We are not concerned here with East Florida. The northern boundary of West Florida was declared to be a line drawn due east from that part of the river, Mississippi, which lies in 31° of north latitude to the river, Chatahouchee. Later the boundary of West Florida on the north was extended to a line drawn from the mouth of the river, Yazoo, where it unites with the Mississippi, due east to the river Apalachicola.

Meantime Spain had claimed all of this province of West Florida by conquest from the indians and from the French; based upon this acquisition Spain had granted many patents and locations of land within the Natchez District. Likewise, the British Governor of West Florida granted many titles to land in West Florida. In 1782 the United States and Britain made a treaty in which the southern boundary of the United States was determined to be a line drawn from the Mississippi due east in the northern most part of the 31° of north latitude to the Chatahouchee, thence to its junction with the Flint River, and thence to the head of St. Mary's River, and from that river to the ocean, thereby adopting and coinciding with the northern boundaries of East and West Florida as established by a Proclamation





Even after the controversies had been settled between these claimants to the Natchez District, they were unable to take possession of much of it because it was claimed by the Indians. About the only route that could be traveled across the territory except up the Mississippi was the Natchez Trace, much of which is now so indistinct, it cannot be followed. It did extend from Natchez to Grindstone Ford on Bayou Pierre, thence thru Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations to Colbert's Ferry on the Tennessee River; thence to Duck River near Nashville, Tennessee.

John Culbertson settled on this Trace in the northeast quarter of Section 3-9, Township 11 West range to East.

The Mississippi Territorial Archives by Goodspeed states,

"The earliest settlers were from Virginia and the Carolinas and they settled in the region drained by the Bayou Sara, the Homochitto, the Bayou Pierre, and the Big Black\*\*\*\*\* from Baton Rouge to the Grand Gulf Hills."

and the "outlaw Years" by Coates:

"Natchez at the beginning of the nineteenth century was already arising toward the commanding position it was soon to occupy and for fifty years to maintain on the lower river: in commerce second only to New Orleans; in beauty the handsomest city in America next to Charleston; in romance richest of them all."

continuing further, the book says:

"wealth was profuse almost unavoidable, among the land classes, but life still had a frontier aspect; on the plantations many costly dining table sets with silver teetered on a homemade puncheon floor; in Natchez, men strolled and drawled, fought duels, chaffered for slaves, drank themselves under the table, were cheated by commissioned merchants and gamblers widely on their own horses at the races--all in the curious mixture of the uncouth and the elegant that is difficult to picture."

#### Cotton Becomes King

While indigo had been the original most profitable crop in the Natchez District, about the turn of the century, the growing of cotton became extremely profitable. The rot attacked it and it looked for a time as though the cotton industry would be destroyed. However, a Doctor Nutt obtained a new variety from Mexico and from that time forward began the tremendous expansion of cotton growing in that area.





Cleburne's History of Mississippi, published in 1880 contains a footnote which says in part that

"he removed from Greenville, Jefferson County to the Cane Hills in the rear of Little Gulf, which is now near Rodney, and devoted himself to the planting of cotton. He studied the cotton gin, which had just been invented, and improved it until it reached, in his hands, a perfection beyond which it has not advanced. He simply took the imperfect Witney gin and improved it to its present state. He made numerous experiments with the grates, saws and brushes in the adjustment of the several parts for moting; all attended with much study and labor and expense. He devised a steam engine which operated the gin. Other farmers erected gins in connection with their own plantations and thus enhanced the cotton growing in that area. It was just after this that Fulton startled the country by demonstrating his new steamboat which sailed down the Ohio and Mississippi and took cargoes of cotton from Grand Gulf and Natchez to New Orleans."





CUMMINS  
(CUMMINGS)

In tracing the Cummins family history we began in Mississippi and from there we found records of the family in Southeast Missouri and from there we found records of the family in South Carolina.

The census of 1790 for South Carolina lists only one John Cummins in the State. He lived in Camden District, Richland County. His household contained one male over 16 - himself - three males under 16 and six females, which no doubt included his wife. The three boys under 16 did not include John Cummins' son, Wilson, not then born. In the same county in 1790 the census listed Steward Cummins, without children. We would like to prove that our John Cummins was in the Revolutionary War. There is listed in the book "South Carolinians in the Revolution", page 81, a John Cummins in Captain John Mills Company of Col. Henry Hampton's Regiment of Light Dragoons. Also in Capt. James Giles Company of Col. William Hill's Regiment of State Troops in April, 1784, same book, p. 85. Also a John Cummins was in the 6th S. C. Regiment enlisted March 23, 1776. A group of soldiers on leave in Charleston were captured by the British. Among them was John Cummins, taken aboard the prison ship "Torbay" on May 17, 1781.

John Cummings is mentioned in Vol. II of Houck's History of Missouri. "A number of old residents of New Madrid moved to Little Prairie from time to time after the village was established. It was a prosperous settlement until the earthquake of 1811....." "Only a short distance from Little Prairie a number of settlers received concessions. Among them was Steward Cummings." North of Little Prairie on Pemiscot were Wilson Cummins." (1802), also John and Robert Cummings on fork of the Pemiscon. "John Cummins on this river (Pemiscot) and the Missouri 1797."

John Cummings and his wife, Eleanor, were both deceased by 1808 as shown by settlement of Estate of Eleanor Cummings. See Book No. 16, Par. 371, New Madrid, Mo., indexed under the name of Robert Cummings in 1805. This file shows that Steward and Robert Cummings had married prior to her death and had been given some property at time of marriage and that both were deceased. On March 23, 1808, Wilson Cummings filed an inventory of the personal property of Eleanor Cummings, deceased, as administrator. Copy of his Bond shows Ransom Thacker and John Cummings as Sureties; that Wilson Cummings, son of John Cummings and Eleanor Cummings, his mother, both deceased, were of the District of New Madrid in the territory of Louisiana. Eleanor Cummings' estate was divided into six parts as follows:





To Steward Cummings' heirs	\$222.71
To Robert Cummings' heirs, represented by Nancy Cummings, their mother, they being infants	222.71
To Sarah Cummings, represented by her husband, John Culbertson	222.71
To Nancy Cummings, under age, represented by her brother and guardian, John Cummins	222.71
To John Cummings	222.71
To Wilson Cummings	222.71

The inventory of the personal property of Eleanor Cummings shows that she owned six negroes, a man and a woman and boys, James, Peter and Ned and a girl, Selia, and was the widow of John Cummings.

An inventory of the goods and chattels of Steward Cummings of Pemiscot in the District of New Madrid is shown in Court Record dated December 28, 1805, in which is stated that John Cummings and Wilson Cummings, both brothers of the deceased, Steward Cummings and John Watkins and Facejah Harris, both creditors of the said Steward Cummings, deceased, and it was their wish that John Culbertson, brother-in-law of the said deceased, Steward Cummings, should be named Sole Administrator.

Robert Cummings died January 6, 1808. On October 25, 1808 his widow, Nancy, administrator of his estate made Bond and filed an inventory with the court District of New Madrid in the Territory of Louisiana. Their children were James, William and Davy, who later signed deed from Claiborne County, Mississippi.

The 23rd of March, 1809, John Cummings was appointed by the court of New Madrid as Guardian of his sister, Nancy Cummings, both children of John and Eleanor Cummings, deceased. She being "upwards of 14 years of age."

In Deed book No. 8, p. 102, New Madrid County, Mo., dated Oct. 16, 1816, is a relinquishment by Wilson T. Cummings, Sarah Culbertson and Nancy Moss, as heirs of John Cummings and Helen Cummings of the County of Claiborne, State of Mississippi and recites John is deceased. John Cummings executed a deed of record in New Madrid County, Mo., in 1810. Helen Cummings' land was in Howard County, Mo., and was conveyed by her heirs on Feb. 8, 1824. Those heirs were the children of Eleanor and John Cummings. See Gale & Seaton Ed., American State Papers, Vol. 2, p. 710-721. Helen Cummings had 640 arpens of land on St. Francis. She was a widow with 4 children and five slaves when she occupied it in 1802. See affidavit in Land Office, Jefferson City, Mo., Vol. 5, p. 74, and Book 1, page 192. She was no doubt the same as Eleanor whose husband, John, was dead. All of their heirs joined in deeding her land.

"A list of the Relinquishment of Land materially injured by earthquakes 1811-12 in the late County of New Madrid in Missouri under the Act of the 17th Feb., 1815 executed by others than the confirmees." This list found in old record book in the office of General Land Records. Archives Bldg., Washington, D. C. from Louisiana Commissioner's Certificates Book No. 79, New Madrid Location.





- #106 - Helen Cummings, 640 A St. Francis conveyed by heirs to William Kinchelow
- #144 - Robert Cummings - 300 A St. Francis transfer by heirs to James Tanner
- #502 - Steward Cummings - 400 A Gayoso transfer by heirs to William Fugate
- #1066- John Cummings - New Madrid

Sarah Cummings was born in South Carolina about 1786. The 1830 census shows she was under 50 years of age and over 40 years. She was married to John Culbertson, a Revolutionary soldier, about 1802 or about the time he came to New Madrid, Mo. They sold their property in 1805 at New Madrid and moved to Jefferson County, Miss. where the census of 1810 shows they had four daughters. John Culbertson died about 1816 and she was appointed guardian of her children at Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Miss. Their old home was near the line of Jefferson and Claiborne Counties. Marriage Book A, p. 58 Port Gibson, Claiborne Co., Miss. Joseph Matthews to Sarah Culbertson October 19, 1817. He, too, had resided at New Madrid and had been married to Priscilla \_\_\_\_\_. He sold his earthquake grant in April 1816, Book 6, p. 325, Location Certificate #116, 200 Arpens. He died in 1826 and his widow, Sarah, was given a dower of 195 acres in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of fractional Section No. 39 in Twp. No. 11, Range 2 East, about five miles from Port Gibson on the State Road to Natchez. We find Sarah Mathews in 1830 Census Claiborne Co., Miss. with 14 slaves and one son under 5 - 1 under 10 and 1 under 15 and 1 daughter under 5, 2 under 10 and 1 under 15 and 1 under 20 and herself under 50 and over 40. Her children are as follows:

1. Esther (Betty) born about 1803 married to John T. Liggett, consent given by her mother and Jos. Mathews. Married 2nd time to Edward Johnson.
2. Keziah, born Nov. 1, 1807, married March 16, 1826 to Milton H. Jones. She died Feb. 10, 1847, Rusk Co., Texas. Records on their descendants and the history of the Jones family have been kept by Mrs. Zillah Ford, 2268 So. Delaware Ct., Tulsa, Okla. and Mrs. George L. Brown, 2001 N. Sam Houston Ct., Odessa, Texas.
3. Patsy in 1823 selected a guardian, being over 14 years of age.
4. Minerva married 1829 to John W. Benton with mother's consent. Witness Milton H. Jones. Buried at Grand Gulf, Miss.
5. Martha married Aug. 30, 1827 to Greenbury Sheeless.
6. Sarah Ann born May 17, 1815. Married Dec. 15, 1830 Shelley Booth Treadwell. They came to Texas 1850. She married 2nd time John Scism. Mr. A. B. Culbertson, Ft. Worth, Texas, knows of this family.
7. Samuel Culbertson b. 1811 - March 6th. He married Mar. 11, 1829 Elizabeth Cummings, daughter of Wilson T. Cummings and Nancy Thacker, who was daughter of Ransom Thacker and Elizabeth. Elizabeth Cummings was born 1811 in Copiah Co. Miss.





Samuel Culbertson was born at Port Gibson, Miss. He died 1852 in Shelby Co., Texas. Their children given in history of Culbertson Family.

8. John Culbertson.

(These children not listed in correct order of birth.)

We do not have the records of children born to Sarah Cummings and Joseph Matthews. We know there was the daughter, Nancy, born July 15, 1818. She came to Texas with her half-sister, Keziah and her husband, Rev. Milton H. Jones. They were living in Shelby Co., Texas when she married Dec. 3, 1841 James Wesley Branch. A list of their children and descendants has been printed in "Southside Virginia Families", Vol. II by John B. Boddie and data was supplied by Mrs. Clem Wilson, Route 3, Box 123, Hot Springs, Ark. James W. Branch and Nancy moved to Williamson Co., Tex. 1845.

They had a son and we feel he was Joseph Matthews born 1823 as shown in census of 1860 living in Yalobusha Co., Miss. His wife was Mary Jane Thacker, born 1833, daughter of Ransom Thacker, Jr. Married there May 4, 1847, Book B, p. 45. See Ransom Thacker Estate, Archives Bldg., Jackson, Miss. They had one son named John, age one year, as shown in 1850 census Yalobusha Co., Miss.

Joseph Matthews owned some land in Claiborne Co., Miss. but at time of his death, 1826, he had contracted to sell it and the contract was enforced in probate court. He lost other lands under execution because he went on some bonds and had to pay. His widow, Sarah, conveyed her dower land to Milton H. Jones Sept. 8, 1827. See Book C, page 264, Records Office, Port Gibson. Other reference Book D, page 371, Book H, page 247.

Wilson Cummings was born about 1791 in South Carolina. He came to Southeast Missouri while it was a part of the Spanish regime. He was administrator of the estate of his mother, Eleanor, in 1808 in New Madrid, Mo. He stated in an affidavit that he introduced the "T" in his name after he was grown. He left New Madrid before the earthquake of 1811 and moved to East Feliciana Parish, of the New Orleans District of the Louisiana Territory. There he and Ransom Thacker witnessed the signature of the heirs of William Thacker namely, George, Eleanor and Ginsha Thacker to lands in the New Madrid Dist. He stated in a deed to the land in that Parish that he settled it in the year 1810. Deed to William Dickson dated Jan. 8, 1819 is recorded in Book C, page 116 of the Notarial Records of East Feliciana Parish, La. It conveyed 640 acres on Pretty Creek "where I formerly resided, which claim I settled in the year 1810 by permission of the Spanish Government.

Wilson Cummings was living in Claiborne County, Miss. according to census of 1820. The census of 1840 shows he was living in Yalobusha Co., Miss. The census of 1850 for DeSoto County, Miss. shows he was living there. In October 1855 a letter he wrote to his daughter, Elizabeth Culbertson, indicates he was still on his old place in DeSoto County, but expected "sometime this winter to start down the river to Drew County, Ark. to locate my land warrant or to hunt a place to law it." We do not know if he moved to Drew County, Ark. nor do we know where or when he died.





Wilson Cummings married first Nancy Thacker (in East Feliciana Parish, La. in 1810) and their only child, Elizabeth, was born 1811. It was in the adjoining county to the north, Amite Co., Miss. that he married Elizabeth Thacker in 1814. She may have been the sister of his first wife, Nancy Thacker, but if so she had died without issue surviving before the death of Ransom Thacker, as she is not shown to have an heir to his estate. Hiram Thacker was his surety and Hiram was Nancy Thacker's brother.

He served in the War of 1812 as a private in Captain Thomas Heason's Company, 10th and 20th Consolidated Regiment, Louisiana Militia. His service commenced December 25, 1814 and ended March 22, 1815.

Wilson Cummings married third time to a widow, Jane Conger, in Claiborne County, Miss. 3-11-1817. The 1820 census Claiborne Co., Miss. shows Wilson T. Cummins with 3 males under 10, 1 male 16-26 and 1 male 26-45 and 1 female under 10 and 1 - 20. The census of 1850 shows him in De Soto Co., Miss. but only the first letter of their names is given. There were five females and four males ranging in age from 25 down to three years. The census of 1860 De Soto Co. Miss. gave his children as

H. F. male	age 22	
Eliza F	age 24	(Wilson Cummings purchased 100 A.
Sarah F	age 23	from Joab Thompson on the waters
Amanda F	age 19	of Widow Creek, Book G, p. 302,
Benjamin M	age 12	Records of Claiborne Co., Miss.

The son, H. F. wrote his will in that county on Sept. 9th, 1834 and gave all of his property in Miss. and Arkansas to his wife, A. E. Cummings. His children were listed as Brooks, R. L., and Bettie, their mother, Annie E. Cummings, to the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Sec. 17, Twp. 3, R. 5. See Vol. 9, p. 320 D. B. of DeSoto Co. The census of 1870 lists H. F., age 33 and son Benjamin age 10 months.

Wilson Cummings' daughter, Elizabeth, married her first cousin, Samuel Culbertson, as he was the son of her Aunt Sarah and John Culbertson. Their children will be given under the Culbertson history.

#### Nancy Cummings

When the estate of John and Eleanor Cummings was divided in 1808 Nancy was "upwards of fourteen years of age". Her guardian was appointed as her brother, John Cummings. She probably came to Mississippi with her brother, Wilson, or her sister, Sarah, and her husband, John Culbertson. She more likely came with her brother, Wilson, as she married Joel B. Moss. She married Joel B. Moss in Amite Co., Miss. November 13, 1813. Their bondsman was Thomas Moss. She and her husband signed a deed in Howard County, Mo. as an heir of John and Helen Culbertson, along with Wilson T. Cummings and Sarah Mathews and her husband, Joseph Mathews, in 1824.

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The deed was acknowledged by all of them as residents of Claiborne Co., Miss. See Book Q, p. 445. Howard Co., Mo.

In 1836 Nancy and Joel B. Moss signed a bill of sale to a slave in East Feliciana Parish, La., but acknowledged it as residents of Montgomery County, Tenn.

The 1820 Census of Claiborne Co., Miss. shows Nancy and Joel B. Moss as being under 26 years of age with a little son and two little daughters.

From Notes of:  
Mrs. Clem Wilson  
R. F. D. #3, Box 123  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

AND

A. B. Culbertson  
P. O. Box 167  
Fort Worth, Texas





## MANUSCRIPT OF

### RANSOM THACKER

Ransom Thacker was my great, great, great grandfather. The census of 1790 for Pendleton County in the old 96th District of South Carolina shows a Ransom Thacker with a male over 16 (probably himself) and one under 16 and 2 females (one his wife). The Cummings family intermarried with the Thackers and we know that they came from South Carolina. John Cummings and Steward Cummins were both listed in the census of 1790 of Richland County. The next history we have of the family is in the Spanish Province of the New Madrid District of the Louisiana territory, which is now the southeastern part of Missouri. Houck's History of Missouri states that New Madrid District was settled largely by families from Kentucky and South Carolina. Ransom Thacker was one of the earlier settlers there. Houck's History, Vol. 2, page 159, states:

"a number of old residents of New Madrid moved to Little Prairie from time to time after the village was established..... Ransom (Ransom) Thacker in 1801 had a grant to establish a flour mill. Little Prairie was about 30 miles south from New Madrid, near the present town of Carruthersville, Missouri."

The estate of Eleanor Cummings was administered in that county and Ransom Thacker and John Cummings were sureties on the bond of Wilson Cummings, Administrator of the Estate of Eleanor Cummings, deceased. Ransom Thacker sold his land in the New Madrid District of the Louisiana territory in 1809. In addition to Ransom Thacker grants were given by the Spanish authorities to William Thacker at New Madrid.

The next record I have of Ransom Thacker is in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, immediately after he left and sold his property at New Madrid. There he was granted a patent to Section 53, Township 1 South and Section 62, Township 2 South, all in Range 2 East of the St. Helena Meridian, by Patent No. 208, containing 540 acres as shown in the report of Commissioner James O. Cozby (American State Papers, Gales and Seaton's Edition, Vol. 3, page 68). See Book Q-2, page 474, Records of East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The grant was situated on Pretty Creek about four miles northeast from Clinton, the county seat.

Just across the line in Amite County, Mississippi, the various Thackers and Cummings obtained marriage licenses. Wilson T. Cummings to Eliza Thacker, 1814. He previously was married to Nancy Thacker. Elizabeth Thacker to Ezekial Clark, 1815. Hiram Thacker to Rachel Thacker, 1814. William Thacker to Elizabeth Davis, 1815. Wilson T. Cummings, who married the daughter of Ransom Thacker, had a grant in the same general area in that parish. He and Ransom Thacker witnessed a conveyance by the heirs of Robert Cummings to the sale of their property in New Madrid Territory from that parish.





The next definite record I have of Ransom Thacker was patents given to him for land in Yalobusha County, one of the northern tier of counties in the State of Mississippi. He obtained patents No. 47 on Feb. 10, 1825; 330 and 851 and 1085, 1090 and 1205 in 1826. These patents were obtained in Hinds County, Mississippi. His son, Hiram, was on the tax rolls there for the years 1824 through 1830. Sixteen counties in northern Mississippi were ceded by the Indian Treaty of Dancing Rabbit. Soon thereafter the Thackers moved into that section and settled in Yalobusha County where he acquired the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 33, Township 25 Range 6 West, and bought from his daughter, Selah Scott, later Hughes, Section 1, Township 12 Range 6 West, in 1839. His will was probated in 1846 and his estate was administered at Coffeyville under No. 283 and was divided among the heirs in 1850. I originally borrowed the papers in this case and sent them to the Archives Bldg. in Jackson, Mississippi, for return to the Records Office in Coffeyville. The heirs shown in his will and the closing of his estate were as follows:

Elizabeth Culbertson and husband, Samuel Culbertson, taking in right of her deceased mother, Nancy Cummings, formerly Thacker (she was my great, grandmother);

Franklin Thacker and Mary Jane Matthews, formerly Thacker, and husband Joseph Matthews, taking in right of their deceased father, Ransom Thacker, deceased;

Richard B. Thacker;

Selah Hughes, formerly Thacker, and husband, Tarlton Hughes;

William Thacker, taking in right of his father, William Thacker, deceased, who married Elizabeth Davis in 1815 in Amite County, Mississippi, and Hiram Thacker, who had married Rachel Thacker there in 1814.

Hiram lived in Walker County of the Republic of Texas and was represented in the administration under power of attorney by his sons, Harvey M. and Albin G. Thacker. There may have been another son who died without children for in 1833 in Yazoo County, Richard B. Thacker was appointed administrator of the estate of Roman Thacker. No inventory was filed and no other record appears. This Roman Thacker had married Southa White as shown in the marriage records of Yalobusha County. Other marriages in that county were Richard B. Thacker to Elizabeth Hamilton, and Harvey M. Thacker to Salina Hamilton, and Joseph Mathews to Mary Jane Thacker on May 4, 1847. He was believed to be the son of Sarah Cummings Culbertson, who had married Joseph Mathews in Claiborne County, Miss. after the death of her former husband, John Culbertson. Selah Scott married Tarleton Hughes prior to 1846.

Very little is known of the descendants of Ransom Thacker other than Elizabeth Culbertson. She had married Samuel Culbertson, who was the son of John Culbertson of Jefferson County, Mississippi,





and who died in Claiborne County, Mississippi, in 1815 and whose estate was administered and guardians appointed for his children in that county. The census for 1840 for Yalobusha County shows Ransom Thacker's son, also named Ransom, under 40 with two males over 10 and under 15; 1 female under 5 and one over 10 and under 15. He was then a widower and all of these children were dead in 1850 except franklin and Mary Jane. Richard B. was shown with one male over 5 and under 10; one female under 5 and he and his wife were over 30 but under 40. He was born in Kentucky in 1800. Hiram was over 40 and under 50. He was born after the 1790 census of South Carolina. The son listed there was under 16 and may have been William. Hiram married in Amite County, Mississippi, in 1814 to a kinswoman.

On May 31, 1938, I visited Richard B. Thacker at his home at 1302 Hyde Park, Houston, Texas. His father's name was Ransom Thacker, who practiced law in Houston for 35 years until his death in 1922. Richard B. was a graduate in engineering from Texas A. & M. College. He told me the old Thacker home was about five miles from Oxford, Mississippi.

The census for 1880 for Fannin County, Texas, shows J. R. Thacker's age to be 47, born in Mississippi. His parents were born in Louisiana, which meant evidently the Louisiana Territory or could have been the East Feliciana Parish. This fits into the family pattern but I know nothing else about him.

The Confederate Military History, Page 653 in the Library at Camp Hubbard makes this report about Major R. J. Thacker, son of Richard B. Thacker:

"Major R. J. Thacker of Houston, Texas, formerly an officer of General N. B. Forrest's cavalry is a native of Lafayette County, Mississippi, son of Richard B. Thacker, born in 1800, who was a soldier under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans, June 8, 1815. In 1862 when Grant's drive invaded Mississippi, Major Thacker, then 15 years of age, organized a company of boys, both white and black and took the field ..... After being mustered out, he entered Mississippi University and after three years in the Law School at Michigan University, he took his degree in Law. He came to Houston in 1876 where he practiced law until his death in 1922. He married the daughter of a Michigan Congressman. He left a son and two daughters.

As previously pointed out, Ransom's grand-daughter, Elizabeth, married Samuel Culbertson, who was the father of Samuel Green Culbertson, who was the father of William Floyd Culbertson, who was my father.

I am unable to trace Ransom Thacker before the census of 1790 in South Carolina. The administration proceedings at Coffeyville, Mississippi, show that his widow was named Elizabeth.

A letter in the pension file S31265 of Morgan Morgan in the National Archives reads:





"1524 S. Boston Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma

22 June 1920

Dear Sir:

Have you the names of Ransom Thacker or Morgan Morgan on your records?

Ransom Thacker married Elizabeth Bond. I think in North Carolina and Morgan Morgan married Jane Boone dau. of Squire Boone, Jr. I have no definite dates. They probably married in Ky.

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ned C. Rigsbee"

This was a letter in file of Morgan Morgan S. 31265 Rev. War.

The word "Thacker" comes from the old English, "Thaec," or a "thatch", or "rushes", used on houses. Middlesex County, Virginia, was the old stronghold of the Thackers in America. Edwin Thacker and his brother served nearly 40 years as clerks of Middlesex County up to 1732. See Vol. 3, page 269, "Virginia Magazine of History" and Vol. 5 of that work.

Among other Thackers shown in the census of 1790 in South Carolina in the old 96th District were: Jewel Thacker of Abbeyville County; Ransom and Nathan in Pendleton County; and William in Greenville County; and Elizabeth, a widow with one male under 16 and four females, in Pendleton County.

The census of 1850 for Yalobusha County shows Selah Hughes, daughter of Ransom Thacker, age 47, born in North Carolina; her daughters Elizabeth, 18; and Martha, 16; and two sons, Milton, 16 evidently a twin, Albert, nine; and James, six, all born in Miss. This might support the contention that Ransom Thacker married in North Carolina, where his daughter was born. The same census for 1850 shows R. B. Thacker, who was married to Elizabeth Thacker, was 44 and born in Kentucky which means that his father, Ransom, must have lived in Kentucky at that time and no doubt left the New Madrid District to go to that state.

Elizabeth Cummins Culbertson and husband, Samuel Culbertson, moved from Yalobusha County to Hinds County and thence to Shelby County, Texas, in about 1850 or 1851, where he died a year or two later. His large family grew up in that county and some of them moved on into Henderson County and elsewhere.





William Thacker was issued a land grant No. 612 by Louisiana Territorial Commissioners on January 25, 1811, which reads:

"We the undersigned Commissioners for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims of land in the Territory of Louisiana, have decided that William Thacker, original claimant, is entitled to patent under the provisions of the Second Session of an Act of the Congress of the United States entitled 'an act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana passed the second day of March, 1805, for 250 arpens of land situate in the District of New Madrid on South Fork of River Pemiscon, as described in the plat of survey, certified the 27th of February 1806, and to be found of record in Book 8, Page 404 of the Recorder's Office.' "

No doubt, William Thacker was a brother of Ransom Thacker who had a grant in the same immediate community. This is further borne out by the fact that George Thacker, son of William Thacker, and his sisters Eleanor and Jensha, on the 5th day of April 1816, executed a deed to the aforesaid grant of land, reciting that they were residents of Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and the deed was witnessed by Ransom Thacker and Wilson Cummings, who in 1810 lived in the East Feliciana Parish, the deed being recorded in Book 8, Page 105, New Madrid Records.

In an old book called "Texas Souvenirs" in the library at Camp Hubbard at Austin, is a story about Elijah M. Thacker, who, at that time, lived in Collin County. It recites that he was born on June 24, 1829, in Copiah County, Miss., which is the same county in which Elizabeth Cummings Culbertson was purported to have been. It recites that his father, George Thacker, was born in New Madrid Missouri. His mother was Nancy, daughter of Morgan Morgan, who in turn had married Jane Boone, daughter of (Squire) Boone, Jr. They were living a few miles east of Baton Rouge in 1807. (See Draper Mss 22 S. 269.74) The report says that Elijah went with his parents to Kentucky and at eighteen came with them to Texas. He was reared on a farm and received about three months' schooling all told. George Thacker, his father, was a native of Missouri and the report says that he was a resident of New Madrid in that state when the Great Earthquake occurred in that country. I doubt this because this occurred in 1811 and they were residing in and executed a deed to New Madrid property in East Feliciana Parish in 1816 and Ransom Thacker and Wilson Cummings were down there in 1810. I think it likely that the family story was based upon the fact that they were given grants for damages done to the property situated in that district after they had left it.

George Thacker came to Texas and died in 1886 at the age of 83 years. His wife, was the daughter of Morgan Morgan, who, when a young man was a pilot on the Tennessee River, but later became a farmer. Elijah M. Thacker came to Texas in 1847 and lived with his parents until 21 and then farmed for himself. In 1858 he married





Miss Sarah J. Branam, daughter of Benjamin Branam of Tennessee and had ten children, namely, James M., Benjamin F., Mahala, Flora A., William H., Mary L., Elijah M., Asa K., Julia H., and George W.

There was a William W. Thacker who lived in Collin County and was two years older than Elijah as shown by the U. S. census of 1880. He married Margaret F. Hampton in Collin County, Texas, on July 4, 1856.

The Morgzn Morgan pension record shows his father was Nathaniel Morgan. It may be significant that a Nathaniel Morgan and John and Benjamin Cummings were on the tax list of Rowan County, North Carolina in 1778. Daniel Boone's mother was Sarah Morgan, daughter of John Morgan and his neice married William Thacker. His brother, Squire Boone was in the New Madrid District and the Natchez District and signed as surety for a Samuel Culbertson. Morgan Morgan lived in 1807 a short distance east of Baton Rouge, which probably was E. Feliciana Parish where Ransom Thacker and Wilson T. Cummings lived, and where a Robert Culbertson petitioned Congress in 1812.





## LEAVES FROM A FAMILY TREE

The researcher wanders around in the forest seeking to find the tree from which he sprang. He picks up and examines each leaf to see if per chance it may match others which he knows were nurtured by his own forebears. Some of them he picks up with enthusiasm, only to find that they did not fall from the right tree.

Family traditions fall into this pattern. True stories are handed down from family to family until they suffer so much from the telling that fiction conceals facts. For example, sons and grandsons of Sarah Culbertson Treadwell tried to tell the same story which they thought she told them.

S. S. Treadwell, then of Kennedy, Texas, in 1938, wrote R. B. McGlassen at 1435 Hawthorne, Houston, Texas, as follows:

"Oliver Goldsmith Treadwell was born near Vicksburg, Mississippi, December 12, 1827. His father was born in South Carolina in the year 1815 of English emigrant parents. They named him Shelley for the poet. His (Oliver's) mother's maiden name was Culbertson. Her mother was born in Holland. Her name was Vanderburger. Her father was born in Scotland. They met and was married in S. C. Grandma and her brother, Sam, was left orphans by the death of both parents at the age of 12 and 14 years. At the age of 15 and 20 they were married."

He was wrong in several particulars. His grandma's mother was Sarah Cummings, born in S.C. Her father was born in Penn. She and Sam lost their father, John Culbertson but their mother married Joseph Mathews and raised another family.

Tom Treadwell, a grandwon, wrote McGlassen in 1941:

"I seen one man by the name of Comings from S.C. Grandmother Treadwell's great grandfather's name was John Comings and him and his wife came from Ireland. \*\*\*\*\* Grandmother visited us the last time when we lived in Hays Co. The day before she left to go home I spent most of the day talking to her. She said that her mother's maiden name was Comings. Her father's name was Culbertson and that he came from Penn. She said after her and grandfather's marriage, that grandpa's youngest brother, John Treadwell, lived with them, and also her brother, Joe, lived with them.

"She said that Joe was her half brother but she thought more of him than she did of her own brothers. Whether Joe was her half brother by her mother or by her father, I don't know. Shelley (S. S.) Treadwell told some one that grandmother's people's name was Vanderberger. He was mistaken. It might be that her mother married a man by that name of Vanderburg before she married Culbertson, or she might of had relatives by that name."

Thus one grandson corrects another. The half brother, Joe, was





Joseph Mathews, son of her mother, Sarah Culbertson, who married Joseph Mathews after John Culbertson died.

It is doubtful that John and Eleanor Cummings came from Ireland although their forebears may have done so. At least another Treadwell thought so. J. F. Treadwell of Houston wrote McGlassin:

"Her (SarahAnn) mother was Sarah Cummings. They came to Mississippi from South Carolina. The old ancestry was from Ireland and settled at Jamestown with the Colonists."

The English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, by Louis de Cognets, Page 190 for Princess Ann County, Virginia, Rent Rolls for 1704 lists John Cumins for 175 acres and Benjamin for 200 acres, but this was long after Jamestown. In the original lists of Virginia Colonists by Haltom, for July 3 and 4, 1635, who sailed from London on the Assurance to Virginia, appears the name of Edward Comins. This puts a Comins with the Colonists at Jamestown. Is he a leaf from the family tree?

The name of Cummings or Cummins is thought by some family historians to be of Scotch origin, while others believe it went into England from Normandy at the time of the Norman Conquest. It is found on ancient records in many and various forms, including Cummin, Cumins, Comyn, Comings, Comins, Cumings, Cummings and Cummins, the last two of which are most generally in use today.

Turn some more Treadwell leaves. J. F. who lived on Route 8, Box 282, Houston, Texas, wrote me in 1938:

"One thing I do know, that Grandma (Sarah Ann) had a half-sister, Nancy, that lived in Burnett Co."

This was Nancy Mathews Branch who lived at Bagdad, near the Burnet-Silliamson Co. line. Her descendant, Mrs. Clem Wilson, always thought she was a step-sister of Sarah Ann because of bible records, which did not agree and inscription on tombstone. But census reports bear out the Treadwells. One of Sarah Ann's sons, Oliver G. wrote in 1934:

"My mother had one sister in Texas and two brothers. Aunt Nancy Branch lives in Wilson County, Texas. (Should have been Williamson). \*\*\*\*\* My mother and Aunt Nancy Branch the youngest children of my grandfather. (she was not his child) Aunt Nancy born in 1818". The half-brother, Joe, is believed

The half-brother Joe, is believed to be Joseph Mathews who married Nancy Thacker.

These notes turn up other leaves, Oliver G. wrote:

"Grandpa Culbertson came from South Carolina to Mississippi." (I suspected he did, as Cummings and Thacker's did).



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"My mother had two brothers that came to Texas in 1849 (if so, John, son of John Sr. came to Texas). Old Uncle Sam was the oldest one of my grandfather's family. (He had four older sisters). His father, my grandfather, had three brothers. I have forgot their names. My mother has talked to us all about her father's family. They were all wealthy (?????) Her father gave her three negros, men, big Pete, little Pete and George. Mother said her father and two brothers fought in the revolutionary war."

After giving various ages, he said:

"You can see Uncle Sam Culbertson's father (John) was 37 years old when Uncle Sam was bor (which was 1811). He had two brothers. They must have been young men during that war. At that time, all that was of that age was in that war, that was what my mother said was in that war."

Whence did these leaves fall?



















